

Fall 8-15-2008

ENG 3601-001: Myth, Moors, and Melancholy

Randy Beebe
Eastern Illinois University

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The Brontës

Myth, Moors, and Melancholy

Professor Randy Beebe

3841 Coleman Hall

rlbeebe@eiu.edu

581-5013

Office Hours

Monday 8.30 - 10

Tues & Thurs 9.30 - 11

Texts

- Charlotte Brontë: *Jane Eyre*, *Villette*
- Emily Brontë: *Wuthering Heights*
- Anne Brontë: *Agnes Grey*, *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*
- Supplementary e-texts

Course website: <http://www.ux1.eiu.edu/~rlbeebe/>

Requirements

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| • Paper (4-6 pages) | 15% |
| • Final Paper (8-10 pp) | 20% |
| • Presentation & paper | 15% |
| • Response Papers / In-class Writing | 15% |
| • Participation | 15% |
| • Final Exam | 20% |

Description & Goals

In this course we will study the works of the most famous sisters in English literary history. While our principal focus will be on the novels of Charlotte, Emily, and Anne Brontë, we will also consider their influences and legacies as we explore the development of the Brontë myth that persists to this day. Through this course, students will develop not only an in-depth understanding of prominent British writers, but will also enrich their knowledge of Victorian culture as they engage with primary literary, historical, and biographical works.

Submitting Assignments

Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments are due on the date specified on the reading schedule or assignment sheet. Papers turned in after the due date will be penalized. I will not accept work that is more than one week late.

Although I encourage you to turn in your projects in class on the due date, you have until 4:00 p.m. on the due date to turn in your work (either to me or in my mailbox, 3155 Coleman Hall). In other words, I want you to be in class on that day regardless

of the status of your work.

Presentations

Each student will prepare and deliver a presentation to the class based on an assigned topic. Your presentation should be approximately 20 minutes in length. Although informal in nature, your presentation should show your command of the topic and your ability to relate the topic to our on-going discussion. You will need to turn in a written version (typed) of your presentation at the subsequent class meeting. More details about the presentations—along with the evaluation criteria—will be forthcoming.

Response Papers

In addition to the formal writing projects, you will also do frequent response papers—usually in response to a specific question from the reading. We will use these papers to trigger our discussion for the day, so you need to have the response papers in class on the date assigned. While this writing is very informal in nature, you should be prepared to read portions of them to the class. You will turn these in and I evaluate them with a plus, check, or minus grade.

Attendance Policy

The nature of this course—the work, discussions, projects—is a direct result of what we do together. It is vital that you are in class all the time. I usually allow two absences or personal days. After that, you will lose points from your final grade for each unexcused absence. If you miss more than 4 classes, you will receive an F for the course. Missing any class discussions will also affect your participation grade.

Plagiarism

Since the university is a place of ideas, discussion, and reflection, it views plagiarism—the taking of others' ideas as one's own—very harshly. The penalty for plagiarizing is swift and severe. You will receive an immediate F for the course and notice will be given to the Office of Judicial Affairs. If you have any questions about plagiarism—however small—please talk to me before you turn in your work.

Electronic Writing Portfolio

This course is a writing-intensive course and, as such, your papers satisfy the requirements for the Electronic Writing Portfolio. If you plan on using work from this course for your EWP, I ask that you complete this before Thanksgiving Break.

Conferences

If you are having any problems with the reading or a paper, I encourage you to come by and see me during my office hours or make an appointment for a more convenient time. I will be more than happy to talk any number of times about a single paper or particular writing problem.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.
